

Engineers Work to Restore Historic Area

By Sgt. Susan German
122nd MPAD

ABU NUWAS, Baghdad – At one time the Abu Nuwas area was a special place for Iraqis; a well-frequented site where families could dine and relax. Restoring the park and street to an earlier pre-war state is a significant objective for the 1st Cavalry Division, with help from Iraqi workers.

The director of the 1st Cavalry Division's Governate Support Team invited a group of local Iraqi media to accompany him through Abu Nuwas Park to document restoration occurring here on Aug. 1.

Col. Kendall Cox, 1st Cav. Div.'s Engineer Brigade commander and director of the Governate Support Team, hosted the Baghdad Press Club, a group of prominent print, television and radio media from Baghdad, on a walking tour of Abu Nuwas Street and Park.

His intent was allow Arab media to see for themselves the progress being made in the restoration of this once popular locale in Baghdad.

Cox anticipates the park will open for public use around Nov. 1.

Before the tour, Cox introduced two men instrumental to the restoration project's success; Khalil Ibrahim, director general for the Al-Rasafa baladia (district), and 1st Lt. Brian Mason, the onsite project engineer from the 239th

Engineer Company, 39th Brigade Combat Team (BCT). Ibrahim manages the day-to-day Iraqi proceedings, while Mason directs the work done by his engineers.

Abu Nuwas Park is located on a 2.5-kilometer stretch along the east bank of the Tigris River. Situated between the Jumhuriya Bridge and a park that extends out to the river in Karada near the 14th of July Bridge.

The brigade's engineers will also help with the renovation of a coffeehouse, once known as the "Al Baghdadi Coffe Shop," which is located in the park behind the hotel complex.

Soldiers are working in phases to finish clearing the riverfront park area of trash and weeds, as well as leveling the ground.

Cox anticipates that the cleanup work will be completed by Aug. 30. The cost of the restoration project will fall in the range of \$750 thousand to \$1 million dollars.

"I think it's an awesome project for me and my men to be on because we can immediately see the fruits of our labor," Mason said. "Hey, we're just doing our job but I think it will bring back prosperity, it will strengthen the local economy, and first and foremost, I believe that it's showing the Iraqi people that we truly are here to help."

The final phase of the project will be to open up Abu Nuwas Street; con-



By Sgt. Susan German, 122nd MPAD

Col. Kendall Cox (left), director of the 1st Cavalry Division's Governate Support Team, and 1st Lt. Brian Mason, onsite project director with the 239th Engineer Company, lead a group of Arab media members on a walking tour of Baghdad's Abu Nuwas Park. District, remains a focal point of the park, just as in the past.

The statue will remain the same; its surroundings, to include a new block for it to sit on, will be updated with the assistance of the engineers.

While still a vision for some, a memory for others, the 39th BCT engineers are working hard to restore a bit of history to Baghdad from a happier time.

"Lots and lots of people come down here and thank us for trying to restore this to what it once was," Cox said.

The statue depicting Arab poet Abu Nuwas, who came from the Al-Rashid

Warning to Troops: Beware of STDs

By Spc. Michelle Newbold

1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Baghdad, Iraq – “It’s important for Soldiers to realize that there are significant consequences with regards to engaging in any kind of casual sex,” said Lt. Col. Roberto Nang, Division Surgeon, for the 1st Cavalry Division.

Unfortunately, many Soldiers don’t think about the consequences, and end up with a sexually transmitted disease, (STD), or an unplanned pregnancy.

Many STDs do not show immediate symptoms to the infected.

“There’s a lot of asymptomatic cases,” Nang said. “So people could be carrying the disease, male and female, and they don’t know that they have it.”

One of the most common STDs is chlamydia. The symptoms can show up from a week to 21 days after having sex.

In men, the symptoms include a watery, white or yellow drip from the penis, and burning during urination. In women, symptoms include discharge from the vagina, bleeding between periods, and pain in the abdomen, sometimes with

fever or nausea.

Gonorrhea is another STD that may not have symptoms.

In males, the symptoms include a thick yellow or white drip from the penis, burning or pain during urination or bowel movement and frequent urination.

In women, symptoms include a thick yellow or white discharge from vagina, bleeding between periods and cramps and pain in lower abdomen.

Genital warts do not even have a cure.

“You can burn them off with chemicals or liquid nitrogen, but a lot of times they keep coming back,” Nang said.

Not everyone has symptoms, but if they do, they include painless warts on and inside the genitals. The disease is extremely contagious.

Syphilis is spread through unprotected sex with an infected partner.

It has three stages, the primary, latent and tertiary. During the primary stage, sores generally develop on the genitals, but can show up anywhere on the body. The sores are painless and go away in a few weeks without treatment. If the

disease is not treated in the primary stage, it will progress to the latent stage, which has no symptoms.

In the final stage, the infection will still be in the body and can cause blindness, heart disease, brain damage, mental illness and serious damage to bones, joints, and the nervous system. Syphilis can eventually kill.

Genital herpes may develop anywhere from two to ten days after exposure, lasting about two to three weeks.

The symptoms consist of itching or burning, leg pain, secretion from the genitals or vagina, and blisters or painful open sores.

The worst STD is the most obvious, HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS.

“There’s really no cure for HIV,” Nang said.

HIV weakens the immune system. HIV is spread through unprotected sex with an infected partner. Some of the possible symptoms are flu like symptoms, swollen lymph glands, recurrent fevers, rapid weight loss, constant tiredness and white spots in the mouth.



If a Soldier suspects they have an STD, they should go to sick call immediately.

“The interviews and the examinations are done in private surroundings,” Nang said.

Most STDs can be treated in country.

“With HIV you would be sent home,” Nang said. “Herpes, gonorrhea, chlamydia, that can be treated here.”

If a Soldier is found to have one STD, they are tested for all STDs.

The best protection against STDs and unwanted pregnancies is abstinence. “If you abstain, your risk for getting any STDs or becoming pregnant on an unplanned basis is zero,” Nang said.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

**What is this?
Ma HAZa?**

Wednesday

High: 110
Low: 82



Thursday

High: 108
Low: 82



Friday

High: 108
Low: 82



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. James Hutton

122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Cmdr.: Maj. John Fuhrman

Public Affairs Supervisor/Interim Editor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen

1st Sgt. 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment: 1st Sgt. William Kuhns

Staff Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Tony Sailer, Sgt. Susan German, Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, Sgt. Dan Purcell, Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, Cpl. Bill Putnam, Spc. Jan Critchfield, Spc. Andy Miller, Spc. Michelle Newbold, Spc. Marie

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News Notes

Ballots Get New Look in Belton

BELTON, Texas- Election ballots in Texas are going to look a little different this November. A new ballot style will not let voters cast ballots in uncontested races.

Franks Approves Kerry, But Leans Toward Incumbent

WASHINGTON (AP)-- Retired General Tommy Franks says presidential candidate John Kerry is "absolutely" qualified to be commander in chief. Franks, whose hometown is Midland, Texas says he hasn't decided whether to endorse President Bush, but he's leaning that way. Franks retired a year ago after successes leading forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. He appeared on ABC's "This Week" Sunday, saying speculation about Kerry's military service is election year politics. Franks says he's an independent and isn't sure if he'll speak at the Republican National Convention.

New CIA Chief Named by Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President George W. Bush on Tuesday nominated Florida Republican Rep. Porter Goss to head the embattled Central Intelligence Agency, saying the former agency operative "knows the CIA inside and out." A one-time Army intelligence operative and CIA agent, Goss faces a confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Double Trouble: Cloned Cats Cost \$50,000



AP

Baba Ganoush stares at her reflection in a mirror as her sibling Tabouli crouches below her, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2004, in San Francisco. These two kittens are the first cats cloned by chromatin transfer, a new cloning technology developed by Genetic Savings & Clone, a pet gene banking and cloning company, who produced the kittens as a precursor to production of the first batch of cat clones for the public. It will cost \$50,000 to have your cat cloned.

Lunch Will Cost Kids More This Year

► *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas-- Back-to-school checklists will have children scrambling for a new item this year — more lunch money.

Feeling the pressure of rising food, labor and transportation costs, schools nationwide are hiking the price of breakfast and lunch, in some cases for the first time in more than a decade and by as much as \$1.

Parents and students in Killeen and Copperas Cove escaped the lunch price crunch this year.

Meal prices at Killeen Independent School District will remain the same, but the milk price has gone up to 40 cents.

Prices at Copperas Cove Independent School District will remain the same as last year also.

CCISD nutrition director John

Constancio said as costs continue to rise, it will be hard not to raise prices.

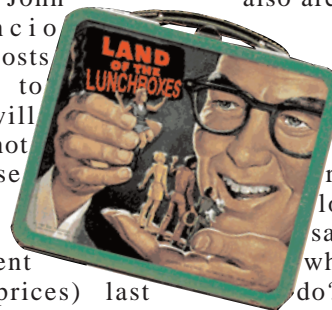
"I went up (on prices) last year, so I didn't want to do that to the public this year," Constancio said. "If it keeps going up, I may have to next year, though."

Duane Ford, business director for Somersworth schools, said this year's 25-

cent increase — the first in 10 years — is just the start. Staff cuts, eliminating the breakfast program and another increase next year also are being considered.

"What we did in terms of changing our price isn't enough," he said recently. "You start looking at reports saying, 'Oh my God, what are we going to do? This isn't working.'"

The increases don't affect the nearly 17 million children who get free or reduced price lunches and who account for more than half of the 29 million children served by the National School Lunch Program.



Top-Selling Football Game Hits the Streets

► *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Adrian Ross, signed Saturday, had been a Steeler for just 24 hours when he sought the hierarchy.

"Plex, man," players explained to him. "That's who you're looking for."

At Steelers training camp, where a video game categorizes its own social classes, Plaxico Burress is the hierarchy, make no mistake.

Teammates speak of him in whispers. He's dominant. Unbeatable. He's the keeper and protector of Madden NFL 2005.

Sunday, Ross found Burress in the team's Latrobe cafeteria.

"I wanna play you," Ross said daringly. Burress nodded.

"When somebody beats me," Burress explained, "news gets around the locker room fast. It's a big thing when you beat me."

Madden NFL 2005, the latest version of the annually released and improved football video game, was



Cyber-Packer wide receiver Donald Driver evades a tackle against the Minnesota Vikings in the Madden NFL 2005 video game. It's in stores now, in the U.S.

developed 15 years ago.

Since then, the game has become a greater social force than any \$49.99 disc should rightfully be.

Among football lovers (and players), it's become a currency for social status.

Yesterday evening, for instance, roughly 75 Madden devotees waited in a line outside GameStop at the Waterworks, ready for the exact minute — 7:34 p.m., as it turned out —

when the first copies of the game arrived for sale.

The store had painted its windows with signs welcoming the game, and as the mass accumulated outside, a local pizza outlet passed around free slices. But today is the real event.

EA Sports, the football game's designer, is hyping the day as "National Madden Vacation Day." The premise? Make an excuse, skip out on work and play the game all day.

Nine-Time Pro Bowl Receiver Reunites with Old Coach

TAMPA BAY, Fla. (AP) -- Tim Brown signed Tuesday with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a move that reunites the former Oakland receiver with ex-Raiders coach John Gruden and general manager Bruce Allen.

The 38-year-old, nine-time Pro Bowl receiver will be counted on to bolster a receiving corps that is in desperate need of experienced help because of injuries and Keenan McCardell's holdout.

Brown was released last week after 16 seasons with the Raiders, who told one of the most popular

players in team history that he was no better than the fourth or fifth best receiver in a group that included starters Jerry Rice and Jerry Porter.

With Tampa Bay,

Brown could wind up being a starter with McCardell demanding a raise after a Pro Bowl season and Joe Jurevicius out indefinitely after undergoing back surgery earlier this month.



After 16 seasons together, Tim Brown said goodbye last week to the Raiders and owner Al Davis.

Sports Shorts

Redskins Edge Broncos 20-17

CANTON, Ohio (AP) -- Joe Gibbs already has a bust in the Hall of Fame. He's already mastered the art of coaching pro football. So what did Gibbs think of his return to the NFL after leading Washington to a 20-17 exhibition victory Monday night in the Hall of Fame Game? "It's a little different to be back in the heat of battle, like taking a mental test. You really struggle when you can't get things going," Gibbs said.

Kobe's Accuser Files Civil Suit

DENVER (AP) -- The 20-year-old woman accusing Kobe Bryant of rape filed a federal lawsuit against the NBA star Tuesday, seeking unspecified damages for pain, suffering and "public scorn, hatred and ridicule" she has suffered as a result of the alleged attack.

Injury Ends Olympic Hopes

ATHENS (AP) -- Jennifer Capriati was forced to pull out of the Athens Games with a hamstring injury and was replaced by Lisa Raymond, a team spokesman told AP Tuesday. Capriati won the tennis gold medal in the 1992 Barcelona Games, but missed in 1996 and 2000. Raymond, 31, is ranked No. 40 in the world.